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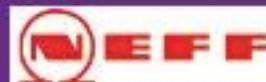
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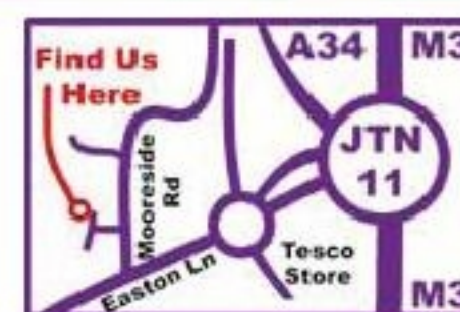
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CAPTAIN KETCH COMES HOME



Adventurer rolls in after eight-month cycling expedition

BASINGSTOKE adventurer James Ketchell has described finishing his round-the-world bike ride as "an incredible feeling".

James, known to many as 'Captain Ketch', has spent the last eight months on his bike, cycling 18,000 miles across the globe.

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

In completing his mammoth feat, James has become the first person in history to have conquered a unique trio of achievements, having climbed

Mount Everest in 2011 and rowed across the Atlantic the year before.

The Scout ambassador crossed the finish line at Greenwich Observatory at 1.30pm on Saturday, where he was met by 150 friends, family and supporters. "It's an incredible feeling," the 31-year-old said. "I'm just so

happy and relieved to have done it and hopefully I've inspired other people to achieve what they want to do in life in the process.

"I've met some amazing people along the way, people taking me into their homes, and visiting kids in schools, hospitals and obviously Scout groups.

"It was a once in a lifetime experience and I hope I've done them justice in a way and repaid some of the generosity they've shown me."

Captain Ketch cycled an average of 100 miles a day since June, and travelled through 20 different countries.

He said that the people he

met on his travels was a highlight of his ride, while getting hit by a three-wheeler in India, which smashed up his bike and delayed progress for week, was a low point.

"I'm almost a little bit sad that it's all over," said James. "It's been an absolute whirlwind, the

• Continued on page 2

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distribution@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

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What's next for Captain Ketch?



• James Ketchell

Cap'n Ketch saddles up for a global bike ride

By Chris Patching

James Ketchell, 34, is a man of many talents. He is a professional triathlete, a former world champion, and a former member of the British Olympic team. He is also a charity fundraiser, a community leader, and a man who has overcome a life-changing accident. Now, he is preparing for a new challenge: a global bike ride to raise money for the ELIFAR Foundation.

• From front page

last seven months. The ride has been by far and away the hardest thing I have ever done.

His achievements are even more impressive, given that he was told he may never walk properly again following a horrific motorbike accident seven years ago.

However, he worked hard at his recovery, and his feats since then have proven to be literally record-breaking.

"[The accident] just made me want it more," said James. "I could sit and feel sorry for myself, or I could do something about it."

As well as a personal achievement, James' trip was also about raising as much money and awareness as possible for

children's charity the ELIFAR Foundation.

The foundation aims to help improve the quality of life of disabled children and adults through grants for specialised equipment, otherwise unavailable by statutory means.

"When I had my accident, I found out what it was like not being able to get around so well," said James.

"And I was lucky - I recovered, but the foundation helps families with disabled children. The foundation is a magical charity - they're very small, and I just like everything about them, so I will always support them."

Captain Ketch has had a relatively low-key celebration on his homecoming - drinks and dinner with family and friends.

And preparations are well

underway for his next major project - he is one of a two-man team to attempt to row across the Indian Ocean in 2015.

"I'm rowing with a guy who's epileptic," said James. "He is going to try and prove to people that just because you're epileptic, it doesn't mean you can't do anything."

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Captain Ketch nears the end of his quest



James Ketchell

Keep aware of breast cancer

OLDER women in Basingstoke and across Hampshire should always be wary of the threat of breast cancer.

That's the message from Hampshire County Council, after new statistics revealed one in three breast cancer sufferers are over 70.

The most recent figures indicate 300 women over 70 were diagnosed with breast cancer in Hampshire in 2011.

And survival rates are lower among older patients than younger sufferers.

Councillor Liz Fairhurst, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, said: "I would urge anyone who

spots any of the possible signs of breast cancer not to be afraid to go and talk to their GP.

"Your doctor understands that a lump or other sign of breast cancer may need investigating. They are ready and waiting to help and will not think you are wasting their time. The earlier breast cancer is diagnosed, the higher the chance of survival."

Research shows that women over 70 are less aware of the symptoms of breast cancer.

Possible signs of breast cancer include a lump in your breast or armpit, nipple changes, changes to the skin of your breast, changes in the shape or size of your breast, pain in your breast or armpit.

WW1 flower bed designs are wanted

BUDDING young artists can design a flower bed to help mark the First World War centenary, in a competition being run by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Launched this week, the competition for seven to 11-year-olds is one of the borough council's activities to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the war in August 1914.

Flowers of different colours will be used to recreate the winning design in an oval flower bed in Eastrop Park in Basingstoke in June, together with a sign giving the name of the young designer.

As well as seeing their design actually bloom, the winner will receive a £50 Festival Place voucher. The runner-up will also receive a £50 Festival Place voucher and all entrants will receive a certificate.

Launching the competition, Basingstoke and Deane Mayor Cllr Dan Putty said: "It is really fitting that young people should be marking this poignant anniversary in our history in such a creative way - a real link between the generations. I'm looking forward to seeing the entries."

Deputy Mayor Cllr Roger Gardiner added: "We are keen that the effect the war had on our community is marked in the borough through initiatives such as this."

Closing date for entries is March 23.

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Nigel is going all out for '52 in 52' (at 52)

A DAD-of-three from Alton is tackling a mammoth marathon challenge in aid of raising £20,000 for the NSPCC.

Nigel Bird is marking his 52nd birthday by hoping to run 52 marathons in 52 weeks.

Nigel, who runs his own building company, has taken on the challenge after learning a friend

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

had experienced abuse during his childhood.

"The discovery of a friend's childhood abuse, coupled with my own experiences, spurred me to do something to help children just as he has," said Nigel.

"Especially now that the NSPCC has rolled out its pioneering new ChildLine Schools Service which aims to educate

children about abuse before it starts and show them how to get help if they need it.

"If this service can give vulnerable children a way out of abuse then every mile is worth it.

"These services weren't available to me and I think it's vital that they are given as much support as possible.

"If my running 52 marathons helps raise awareness and gives other people the incentive to take on their own challenges, then the sky is the limit.

Nigel has never undertaken

something this strenuous before, but has completed other physical challenges, such as Three Peaks challenge and Southdowns Way in a Day.

"I hadn't appreciated how far a marathon is and the effect on my feet until I started training for it," added Nigel.

"I'm looking forward to the end of the challenge and seeing the benefits of the wonderfully generous donations people have been giving.

"I'm keen to see how my body responds to multiple mara-

thons and how much faster I can run."

"Logistically this is a bit of a challenge so initially I aim to run one organised marathon per month and three unsupported per month on my home patch, independently adjudicated and ice permitting.

"Should snow and ice cause any problem then the treadmill will be utilised."

Anyone wishing to sponsor Nigel should visit www.justgiving.com/NigelBird-marathon52at52.

Miller urges residents to have a say

BASINGSTOKE MP Maria Miller is urging local residents to share their experiences of the Hantsdoc out of hours service, ahead of its upcoming inspection.

Ms Miller is asking people to make their views known to the Care Quality Commission (CQC), who will be conducting the inspection.

She said: "This inspection of the out of hours GP service is an important way of looking at how well the service responds to patients' needs.

"It can also consider how the service communicates with other local services, such as GP practices, care homes and emergency services.

"I hope that people in the Basingstoke area who have used Hantsdoc will make their views known to help inform the inspection."

Hantsdoc forms part of 'North Hampshire Urgent Care', which also includes Frimley Primary Care Service.

The CQC is inspecting all out of hours GP service providers between now and June 2014, with Hantsdoc's inspection scheduled to take place in March.

People who wish to share their experiences of Hantsdoc with the CQC can email enquiries@cqc.org.uk or phone 03000 616161.

This Valentine's Day, get down on one knee... in mid-air!



Pop the question in mid-air this Valentine's Day!

WHILE many couples will be thinking of getting engaged this Valentine's Day after a romantic dinner or walk under the stars, Basingstoke's Airkix centre is providing a rather intriguing alternative.

The indoor skydiving complex is giving five couples free 'proposal slots' - time reserved in the wind to pop the question.

It is also being offered at Air-

kix's two other venues in the UK, located in Manchester and Milton Keynes.

General manager at Airkix Indoor Skydiving Basingstoke, Tracy Goffin, said: "Forget fancy restaurants and dropping down on one knee, to celebrate Valentine's Day we are offering loved up lads and ladies the opportunity to pop the question in style and in a way their partner would never guess.

"Getting engaged is one of the most memorable moments a couple will experience and we are delighted to play a part in these adventurous proposals.

"Valentine's Day needn't be predictable for your partner this year, let Airkix blow them away!"

If you are interested, call the Airkix team on 0845 331 6549, or you can email memorableproposal@airkix.com.

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Chris H

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McGavin named as Hants' Poet Laureate

Mayor in visit to Sebastian's Action Trust



• Mayor Cllr Dan Putty, wife Julie, and staff at Sebastian's Action Trust

BASINGSTOKE mayor Cllr Dan Putty and mayoress Julie Putty have visited local charity Sebastian's Action Trust, to meet the staff who help the families of seriously ill children.

Sebastian's Action Trust is the mayor's chosen charity for 2013/14, and he and his wife have been raising money for the organisation to support

families in need.

Mrs Putty said: "The trust is an amazing charity that helps the family unit as a whole, and I really admire that."

"It's been great meeting the team to see what amazing people work behind the scenes and I am looking forward to being part of the volunteer staff when we finish our tenure."

Jane Gates, CEO of the trust,

added: "It's fantastic to have such great supporters to champion our work."

"I think it's great to introduce people to what we do and it's lovely to hear that Julie admires our work so much so, she wants to be part of the team."

"Volunteers are vital to everything we do, and without them, we could not function and help as many families as we do."

HAMPSHIRE'S Poet Laureate for 2014 has been named as Joan McGavin, after she fought off competition from more than 50 poets from across the county for the high profile role.

Joan is a lecturer at the University of Winchester, and as Hampshire's new chief bard she will promote reading and writing and help to organise literary-themed events.

She will also write poems to help commemorate local council projects and activities during her term as Poet Laureate, which is awarded by Hampshire County Council biannually.

"I'm honoured and thrilled to have been chosen for this important award, and also a little daunted," said Joan.

"Poetry is such an important part of my life. It's great to be able to share that enthusiasm with others and hopefully prompt it in others."

"I'm often inspired by events

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

happening in the world around me, either locally or beyond, and sometimes by the language I discover, read or even overhear being used around those events.

"Poetry is a way of trying to make some sense of the often random-seeming world we live in."

She succeeds fellow University of Winchester lecturer Brian Evans-Jones, who was Hampshire Poet Laureate for 2012.

Joan added: "It's great that the post is staying with someone from the university."

"Our creative writing degree is already a very popular one; I hope this attracts even more students to this part of the country."

"There's already a good performance poetry scene in Winchester, and a lot of interest in poetry generally, from all ages of people."

Joan is a published writer in her own right, and her first collection of works, entitled 'Flanelgraphs', came out in 2011.

Her work has also featured in magazines and anthologies, and she is currently penning her second poetry collection.

News Bites

Special design

WHITCHURCH Silk Mill has been commissioned to design and weave a silk to be used as giftware that will be sold to raise money for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

Production of the silk began last week, and uses the iconic green and yellow of the air ambulance logo in a pattern designed by placement student Emma Simmonds.

Rupert Nabarro, chairman for the Whitchurch Silk Mill Trust, said: "As two local charities, a collaboration such as this is significant."

"Not only will it help us both to raise much needed funds, but will also raise our profiles on a local level."

Hats off to Regus

STAFF and visitors to the Regus centre at Chineham Business Park wore woolly hats all day last Friday, to raise money for homeless charity St Mungo's.

It was one of over 100 Regus centres across southern England who took part in the charity's annual 'Woolly Hat Day', collectively raising more than £3,000.

John Spencer, CEO of Regus in the UK, said: "We were really pleased our centres in the south could help by taking part in 'Woolly Hat Day', and raise vital funds for such an important cause."

Christine Mortensen, head of fundraising at St Mungo's, said: "Hats off to Regus for a great team effort by their centres."

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Deeside Care Home Launch New Campaign to Keep Home Open!

It's called Sssh! & stands for "Stop Shutting Silver Haired Homes"

Deeside Care Home for Older People is owned by Hampshire County Council and has sadly been 'earmarked' for being sold-off.

... BUT ...

It is not due to close until October 2014 and still has a full complement of trained staff with 13 rooms standing EMPTY!

We think this is shameful when we know there are families in the town who are crying out for RESPITE CARE...

The Deeside campaigners are raising a petition to appeal to Hampshire County Council to provide this vital service in the community with negligible cost implications.

So if you agree with us that Deeside should be used for respite care then please come along on launch day:

Saturday February 15th

Wote Street, Basingstoke Town Centre at 11am and sign our petition

For more information on Sssh! or to request a Newsletter Email Lynn at: savingdeeside@gmail.com

New Deeside drive begins

ONE of the main figures behind the 'Save Deeside' care home campaign has said a new movement is very much alive and kicking.

Alan Stone, who was treasurer of the old Save Deeside campaign, said there was a 'very, very positive' meeting held on Tuesday about the future of another campaign rising from the embers of the original drive.

In December, Hampshire County Council (HCC) took the decision to close the home, saying it was not economically viable to be brought up to modern standards. It is expected to be closed in October.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) had written to HCC advising against closure, and over 7,000 signatures had been collected opposing the proposals.

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Now, the Stop Shutting Silver Haired Homes (SSSHH) campaign is planning to present a petition to HCC, to show how vital they believe respite care is needed in the area.

Mr Stone, a UKIP parliamentary candidate, said around 20 people were in attendance, including councillors, relatives of residents, and some staff members.

"If they're going to knock Deeside down and put social housing there, what plans they have got for the old people who live in the area?" said Mr Stone.

"There are a number of bungalows built in and around the care home as a feeder unit.

"We believe it should be kept open as a care home at least until they decide to make it a specialist care unit for acute dementia care.

"Fundamentally, we don't want them to sell Deeside. We want to keep the family silver."

The group has also criticised the fact that 13 empty beds are currently not being put to use in the home.

Councillor Liz Fairhurst, Hampshire County Council's executive member for Adult Social Care, said offering the home as a temporary respite facility 'would not be appropriate.

"The County Council's priority is its duty of care for current residents at Deeside," she said.

"Although there are currently 13 vacant beds within Deeside it would not be appropriate to offer the home as a temporary respite facility - particularly when Basingstoke has a number of dedicated respite care facilities already in existence."

SSSHH's launch is on Wote Street in the town centre at 11am on February 15.

The group will hold meetings every two weeks.

Chairman praises community volunteers



• Councillor Stephen Gorys with the winning individuals

HART District Council Chairman, Cllr Stephen Gorys, has announced the individuals and organisations to be recognised in the popular 'Hart Chairman's Award Scheme' during December and January.

The individuals and organisations recognised for their community work are: Terry Plume from Hartley Wintney Cricket Club, Kevin Mor-

ris for his volunteer work through the building of the Fleet Division Guide Hall, Maureen Ayres for her time and energy for Yelabus and her Tythings Coffee Group, Open Sight volunteer Ann Kay and Ever-sley community champion Simon Smith.

Fleet Phoenix were also honoured for their continued hard work within the local community.

Cllr Gorys thanked them for their hard work during the January full Council meeting, and received a donation from the chairman of £125.

Cllr Gorys said: "Once again we have seen the broad range of support and help to our community that volunteers and local organisations provide and it is a great contribution to our wonderful district of Hart."

Police in witness appeal after bus sex assault

POLICE are appealing for information after a woman was sexually assaulted on a bus in Basingstoke.

The victim got on the number eight bus at the bus station near Kennet Way, Oakley, on January 31.

And between 5pm and 5.50pm, a man sat down next to her on the bus and inappropriately touched her.

The offender is in his 20s, with olive skin, of average build and had dark hair.

He is also said to have a German or Eastern European accent.

PC Matt Sard said: "The victim was sat minding her own business on her way home when a stranger sat next to her and touched her for no reason.

"Were you on this bus? Did you

see this happen? I would like to hear from anyone who saw this man or knows who he is.

"I would particularly like to hear from a man who was out walking his dog on Oakley Lane at about 5.45pm on the day."

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Sard at Basingstoke Police Station on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

News Bites

Motorbike stolen

POLICE are appealing for information after a motorbike was stolen in Basingstoke.

The bike was stolen some time between 3pm on Friday, January 24 and 1pm on Saturday, January 25 from the garage of a property in Pen- nie Close.

It is a black and blue trial Yamaha WR125 bike, registration RK13 HCG.

Police Staff Investigator Rosanna Brown, said: "I would like to speak to anyone who may have seen or heard anything in connection with this incident."

"If you have any information please get in touch at the earliest opportunity."

Call 101 or Crimestoppers with information.

Transformation

BASINGSTOKE'S Travelodge will undergo a £230,000 transformation, as part of the company's £100million investment.

The 44-room hotel in Winchester Road opened in 1989.

The company's investment will see 15 new hotels open throughout the UK, and hopes to create 1,000 jobs.

Peter Gowers, Travelodge chief executive said: "2014 marks the next stage on our journey to build a new Travelodge that is Britain's favourite hotel for value."

"During the last year we modernised more than 200 of our hotels across the country and we are on schedule to transform the majority of our portfolio by this autumn, with our hotel in Basingstoke a part of that."

Fitting tribute to inspirational man

ACHINEHAM children's nurse is running next month's Reading half marathon in March in memory of her husband, who suffered from multiple sclerosis.

Julie Hughes will be joined by a group of more than twelve family and friends hoping to raise thousands of pounds for the MS Society.

Julie's husband Simon was diagnosed with MS in 2007. He deteriorated quickly and within two years he was forced to use a wheelchair.

He died in May after six years battling the disease.

"Simon was an inspirational man and although he never realised it he touched so many people's lives with his generosity of character and his aspiration to make people feel good about themselves," said Julie.

"He was a disciplined sportsman who loved his running and despite his MS diagnosis he continued with his running for as long as he possibly could."

"When he was no longer able to walk unaided he attended a regular physio session supported by the local branch of the MS Society."

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

"He never ceased to encourage and support others in the group. It was heart-warming to recognise the true camaraderie and friendship that developed. Groups like this would not be possible without the funding and support of the MS Society."

"[Running the half-marathon] is a fitting tribute as he was a runner. We shared a love of running and when Simon was no longer able to run I didn't feel it was something I wanted to continue without him running alongside me and encouraging me."

"I decided if that's what he wanted me to do then I'll do it. I knew it would be a tough challenge but I had the support of family and friends who are runners and who shared my vision to fulfil Simon's wish."

All the money raised by the group will go to the Basingstoke branch of the MS Society.

Mark Haymes, the MS Society's Area Fundraiser for the south, said: "We're incredibly grateful to Julie and her family and friends for this amazing fundraising effort."

"This is a great way of paying tribute to Simon."



Julie Hughes will run the Reading half-marathon in memory of her husband Simon

County set to keep council tax frozen

HAMPSHIRE County Council will keep council tax frozen for a fifth year in a row.

The authority is faced with making £93m savings by next year, but have chosen to keep the tax consistent.

The proposals will be considered by the HCC cabinet meeting tomorrow.

Council Leader Roy Perry said: "Finding another 12 per cent in savings from an already lean organisation, and keeping the council tax the lowest in the south east, is becoming more and more difficult. It means having to do things differently, scaling back, and finding the most cost-effective solutions to delivering services."

"Despite this backdrop, the budget proposals set out how Hampshire County Council is planning to stay 'in business', continuing to avoid any major outsourcing of services and protect jobs as far as possible."

"Our aim is to maintain the best local services while living within our means, and keep the council tax at the same level for the fifth consecutive year."

"However with staff accounting for a quarter of our budget, a 12 per cent cut will mean reducing posts in some areas."

"For others, it may see recruitment to support business growth and investment. If agreed, the proposals for 2014/15 would see a reduction of an estimated 200 full time equivalent posts. This includes a further ten per cent cut in senior management on top of the 25 per cent made in previous budgets."

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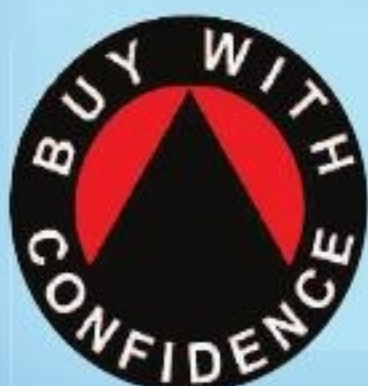
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Red Carpet: There was 'fantastic buzz'

HAVING frequented Red Carpet Screenings in the past it's always a pleasure to attend the lively and friendly event, this time was no different and if anything the busiest for some time.

That may have been to do with the appearance of a certain Mr Mike Read on the panel this time round, and despite (by his own admission) not knowing a lot about films, he certainly knows how to hold an audience.

The evening got off to a good start with the opening episode of Monkey Dribble Film's new series Back to Young. Whilst it's not the most enticing of openers, stick with the rest of the series and there is a lot of fun to be had. Tyrone Lewis' Bliss was up next, and whilst a little ambitious certainly introduced us to a refreshingly strong female anti-hero.

Andreas Sheittanis' Tanabata proved to be not only a lesson in Japanese culture but a fantastically put together film especially when you consider the fact it was made entirely in 48 hours. Poignant and highly recommended.

Things took a slightly darker tone for a while with Dan Allen's creepy and well shot horror Audition sending chills through the audience. Less scary perhaps but certainly as dark as Sophie Kenny's beautiful and haunting Tippet, the production design was

By Paul Anderson

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

fantastic and it certainly leaves you with a lot to think about.

Comedy fans and local landmarks were well served by the entertaining 80s homage SoulMatrix (made by local filmmakers Pork Chop Pictures). The laughs weren't over yet though the evening ended with the quirky but rather brilliant The Boy With A Camera For A Face. Spencer Brown's film is a strangely literal affair featuring some fantastic narration from Steven Birkoff.

Overall the quality of the line up meant that this was the best Red Carpet yet and shows that this event is going from strength to strength. If forced into a corner you may have to pick The Boy With A Camera For A Face as the film of the night but it was a very close call.

There was fantastic buzz in the venue afterwards and a genuine sense of camaraderie between the filmmakers and the audience. A great event all round and well worth checking out.

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Second animal rescue vehicle for firefighters



The fire service team now have a second dedicated response vehicle for their animal rescue efforts

HAMPSHIRE Fire and Rescue Service's animal rescue capability now has a second dedicated vehicle, which will be based at Basingstoke Fire Station.

The new appliance will strengthen the ability to deal with large animal incidents in the north of the county.

It will build on the success of the first dedicated animal rescue vehicle based in the New Forest at Lyndhurst Fire Station.

Jim Green, Hampshire's Animal Rescue Manager, said: "Incidents involving animals are now relatively common.

"We deal with around one large trapped animal each week, along with other regular incidents where the involvement of animals places the public and rescuers at risk."

"This new addition to our fleet will increase our resilience to be able to deal humanely and safely with animal incidents across Hampshire."

The vehicle contains the specialist equipment needed to deal with animal rescues in a range of scenarios - from horses in cattle grids or cows in slurry to livestock transporters involved in

road traffic collisions.

Animal rescue is recognised as one of the most dangerous activities firefighters undertake, so specialised training is essential to equip crews with the knowledge and skills to deal with unpredictable situations.

Mr Green added: "Prevention is better than cure. Our animal rescue teams have been providing training to owners, particularly of horses, not only on how to reduce the chance of a problem occurring, but what to do if the worst happens, how to react and who to call."

News Bites

New governors

HAMPSHIRE Hospitals Trust has five new governors for its council.

Lillian Turner is the representative for North Hampshire and West Berkshire, while Jane Budd, Jennifer Ramsey, Zoni Asif and Jennifer Barber have also been elected.

The 15-strong council's next meeting takes place at The Ark Conference centre at Basingstoke Hospital on Tuesday.

In it to win it

ST Michael's Hospice has announced the results from its draw from January 31 - the 300th overall.

Hook ticket 00076 claims first prize of £1,000, while second prize of £100 goes to ticket £100 of Old Basing.

Third prize of £50 goes to Tadley ticket 87747, and Whitchurch ticket 74643 gets fourth prize of £20.

Sixteen runner-up prizes of £5 go to tickets 10258, 15195, 18540, 26811, 28035, 35623, 46457, 57147, 66697, 76164, 78546, 78646, 82436, 83974, 87636 and 95197-001

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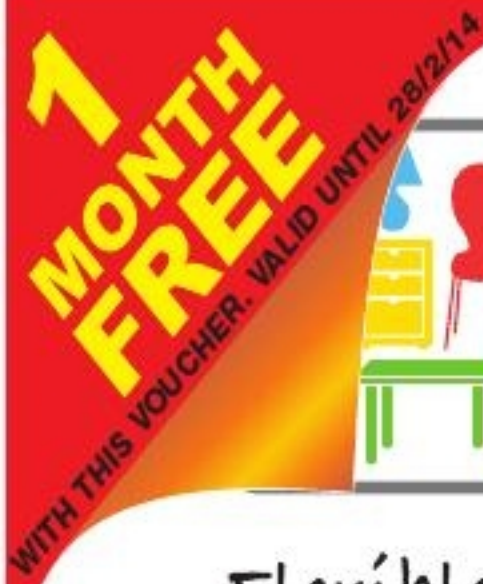
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Will you be county's new voice of youth?

YOUNGSTERS of Basingstoke and across the county are being encouraged to sign up as the county's Youth Voice Representative.

Hampshire County Council are looking for two people - a male and a female - to act as representatives for the area's young population.

Applicants must be 16 to 21, or up to 25 with special needs, and a school leaver.

Potential representatives are also required to have had experience representing young people.

Councillor Keith Mans, Hampshire County Council's executive lead member for Children's Services, believes the role is a great chance to get involved in local democracy.

"This is an exciting opportunity to represent young people in Hampshire, getting involved in local democracy and influencing services at the heart of the county council's Children's Services department.

"It is a varied role and you will be involved in attending key meetings, organising consultations, working closely with the county council's Elected Mem-

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

bers, in addition to Members of Hampshire's Youth Parliament and young people as well as reading documents and sending communications to engage with young people.

"If this is a role that you are interested in, then I strongly urge you to apply.

"The county council values the involvement of young people in decision making and we have created these roles to ensure they are represented in the development of our services from the onset.

"The roles will enable us to better listen and involve young people, and gather invaluable feedback.

"They are also part of the county council's commitment to invest in young people by giving them opportunity to develop their skills and experiences to help them in their future careers."

The position is voluntary, with travel expenses paid, and is a one-year position from April this year.

For application details, email your details to lynne.meecham@hants.gov.uk. Alternatively, call 01962 845877 by February 28.



Students get thinking caps on

A BASINGSTOKE school were given a two-day 'thinking skills' workshop last week.

Car manufacturer Honda sent a 'School of Dreams' team to Everest Community Academy last Tuesday and Wednesday.

The team aims to help youngsters understand the importance of pursuing their dreams.

Over the last seven years, School of Dreams has been delivered in more than 200

schools across the UK, engaging around 10,000 students and teachers.

Anna Last, from City Honda, said: "To help children understand they can turn their dreams into reality by learning to use strategies in their early lives will undoubtedly have a positive effect on the local community.

"We believe children and young adults deserve all the

help they can get."

Rosie Hughes-White from Everest Academy, added: "It was great fun to work with a group of people I didn't previously know.

"Students really enjoyed the workshop and grew noticeably in confidence during the two days."

• Students of Everest Community Academy

News Bites

Culture vultures

GROUPS that promote culture, community and recreation across Hampshire are set to benefit from £48,690 in grants from Hampshire County Council.

HCC's Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside, Councillor Keith Chapman, has awarded the funding to 32 organisations for 2014/15.

Anniversary

SOUTH Central Ambulance Service (SCAS)'s Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) is celebrating three years since its inauguration.

HART staff are paramedics and technicians who have additional training to help them deliver care in more dangerous and challenging emergency environments.

Paul Haly, HART team leader and paramedic, said "The knowledge and increased awareness that I have gained in HART has enabled me to develop both personally and professionally, and helped me progress my career as a paramedic."

Can't cook?

COOKERY classes have returned for men over 55 who feel they need a bit of help in the kitchen.

Hart District Council has teamed up with the county council and Rosefield Court in Hartley Wintney to stage the six week course, after last year's success.

The course starts on February 18. Places must be booked in advance, email eh@hart.gov.uk

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Entertainment

Welcome to our Entertainments page where we are showcasing all that is good in local entertainment ranging from professional to amateur acts. If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

Lee offers sneak peek

See the Deep Dark Woods

FOLK band The Deep Dark Woods are at The Railway in Winchester on Tuesday, as they perform music from their new album 'Jubilee'.

Lead singer Ryan Boldt is joined by Chris Mason, Lucas Goetz and Clayton Linthicum, and the group have appeared at numerous high-profile festivals across the world.

Tickets cost £12 and doors open at 8pm.

Go to www.railwaylive.co.uk or call 01962 867795 for more information.

Laughter House

JAN Jack's Laughter-House returns to Basingstoke this evening, with Dave Fulton, Mark Lucero and Phil Dinsdale appearing for a night of comedy.

It is part of a regular series of comedy evenings that take place at the Red Lion Hotel. Tickets cost £14, and more details are available at www.laughter-house.co.uk.

STAND-UP comedian and television star Stewart Lee comes to The Anvil on Tuesday, with his new show 'Much A-Stew About Nothing'.

He is currently embarking on a tour in preparation for the next series of his popular TV show 'Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle', which is set to begin later this month with six new episodes.

The tour is essentially a sneak-peek at the material Stewart will be using in the show, with the six main topics of property values, UKIP, the Internet, satire, marriage and how context affects the meaning of words.

"Basically I've got six half-hours of stuff on the go," said Stewart. "Each one works like a complete half-hour, and I'll do three or four in Basingstoke, depending on what the audience seem like."

"I don't quite know which ones I'll do, but I'll probably just do the best bits."

Stewart has been working in the comedy industry since the 1980s, and also co-wrote the controversial musical 'Jerry Springer: The Opera' in 2005.

However, coming up with new material every year for so long

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

is no easy task, and Stewart himself has admitted he is finding it harder.

"I find it more difficult every year, because less stuff happens to me as I'm just a parent now," he said.

"I just about keep on top of the news, and I'm sort of hanging in by the skin of my teeth really in terms of coming up with ideas."

"But I was lucky with a couple of things."

"One of the half-hours is about UKIP; I was running late for school to drop the kids off and I got in the car, put the radio on, and I heard an interview with the deputy head of UKIP Paul Nuttall."

"It was so funny that I went home and suddenly had half an hour. Sometimes you're just lucky, but mainly it's just a terrible grinding slog."

Tickets for the show cost £21, and it begins at 8pm. For more details, call The Anvil on 01256 844244 or go to www.anvilarts.org.uk.



• Stewart Lee returns to Basingstoke for his new show on Tuesday

Stray Birds are at the Forge

AMERICAN folk group The Stray Birds are at The Forge on Saturday, as they prepare for the release of their second studio album.

The group come from Lancaster County in Pennsylvania and first got together in 2010, before the release of their debut and eponymous album in 2012.

This show is part of a full UK tour, and starts from 7.45pm. For more information, go to www.anvilarts.org.uk or call the box office on 01256 844244.

Les Miserables

LES Miserables returns to Central Studio from Wednesday, with the latest performance of the iconic musical from students at Queen Mary's College.

Victor Hugo's classic story recounts the struggle against adversity in 19th century France, and includes songs such as 'I Dreamed a Dream', 'On My Own' and 'One Day More'.

It starts at 7.30pm each day, and is running until February 15.

For tickets, call 01256 418318 or visit www.centralstudio.co.uk.

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Entertainment

Welcome to our Entertainments page where we are showcasing all that is good in local entertainment ranging from professional to amateur acts. If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

Youth in the Limelight

Night at the Ballet

THE Russian State Ballet and Orchestra of Siberia comes to The Anvil from tomorrow, with performances of Giselle and Swan Lake.

Formed in 1981, the ballet established itself as one of the leading dance groups in Russia, and features Sergei Bobrov as artistic director and Anatoly Tchepurnoi as music director and chief conductor.

Performances are running until Sunday.

For more information about either show, call 01256 844244 or go to www.anvilarts.org.uk.

Kid Carpet and the Noisy Animals

KID Carpet and The Noisy Animals are back with a brand new adventure, coming to the Bordon Phoenix on Saturday.

This time they are blasting off into space in this children's production, which starts at 2pm. More information is available at www.phoenixarts.co.uk.

By Jaqui Ball

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

ACTING is the hardest profession in the world. So say the characters in the hit musical *Fame* – a sentiment echoed by two rising stars of musical theatre, Jodie Steele and Tom Senior, when they met the youngsters of BAOS Limelight last weekend.

Hard indeed, they told them, but it is also the best profession in the world.

Jodie, 22, stars as Carmen in the 25th anniversary UK Touring production of *Fame*, opening shortly at New Wimbledon Theatre while Tom, 23, played Schlomo in last year's Stevenage production.

As the Limelighters' next production is *Fame Jr*, they were keen for advice from the professionals on bringing their own show to life.

Jodie, a local girl, attended Brighton Hill Community School, Queen Mary's College and Guildford School of Acting.

She didn't start dancing until she was 16 and once wanted to



• Jodie Steele and Tom Senior alongside the youngsters of BAOS Limelight

be a professional footballer! Tom went to the prestigious Arts Educational Schools, then switched from acting to musical theatre. He is currently rehearsing for the West End production of *The Jersey Boys*.

Both advised the youngsters to take time to understand the characters they are playing.

They stressed the importance

of developing their acting, telling them: "You need to be first and foremost a group of actors who can sing and dance if you are to create believable characters that the audience will care about."

Harriet Brannam, 15, said: "The visit was so inspirational. It got us in touch with our characters. It showed me that I can be anyone or anything but it's

hard work."

Tom and Jodie hope to be in the audience for *Fame Jr* at the Everest Community Academy on April 26th and 27th.

"They are just a great bunch of people," says Tom, "I can't wait to see it."

For ticket information, go to www.baoslimelight.ticketsource.co.uk.

Lightyears away!

FORMERLY of the band Lightyear, Chas Palmer Williams comes to the Alton Lounge Bar as a solo artist for a new live show.

Along with Chas, the evening will see performances from Gypsy Rebel Rabble, Geist-fight, and Captain Accident and the Disasters.

Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets cost £5. For more details, go to www.facebook.com/LoungeBarAlton.

Searching for the perfect story

THE story of Jack at the Beanstalk Cafe is being told at Central Studio on Saturday morning, in a children's production using puppets, live music and song.

In a twist of the similarly named fairytale, two adults play with their food as they search for the recipe for a perfect story.

Tickets cost £6 for adults and £5 for children. Go to www.centralstudio.co.uk or call 01256 418318 for more details.



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By AIR from Gatwick airport

European Holidays by Air

Diano Marina & the Riviera of Flowers



Saturday departures, 7 June and 6 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

Imagine a backdrop of hills clad in olive groves and pine, lemon and orange trees leading down to picturesque coves, splendid beaches, and the hinterland blazing with the exotic flowering blooms from which the Italian Riviera of Flowers gets its name. ... savour delightful Diano Marina on this great-value holiday with a quality hotel and two fully-escorted excursions.

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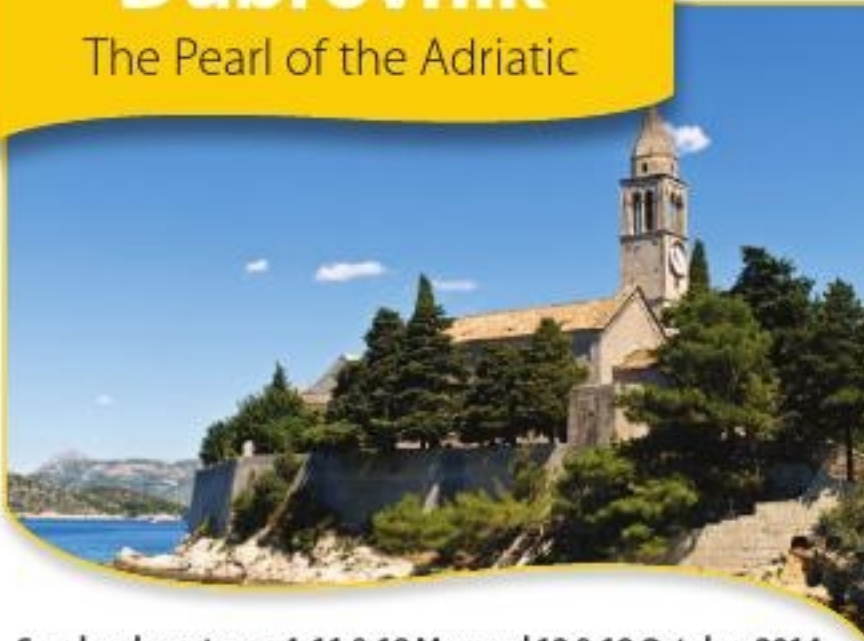
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Nice^{†††}
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Aix en Ciel, Diano Marina with dinner & breakfast
- An upgrade to the 4 star Hotel Metropol, Diano Marina is offered, subject to availability, at a supplement
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to Santa Margherita & Portofino and Monaco & Monte Carlo

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^{†††}We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised prices correct as of 30/12/13 and based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 7/6/14.

Dubrovnik The Pearl of the Adriatic



Sunday departures, 4, 11 & 18 May and 12 & 19 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

The magnificent old walled city of Dubrovnik is steeped in historical, architectural and artistic treasures boasting spectacular Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Set against a backdrop of wooded hillsides and with stunning views of the Dalmatian coastline, it is easy to see why George Bernard Shaw thought idyllic Dubrovnik was quite simply "Paradise on Earth".

Price includes:

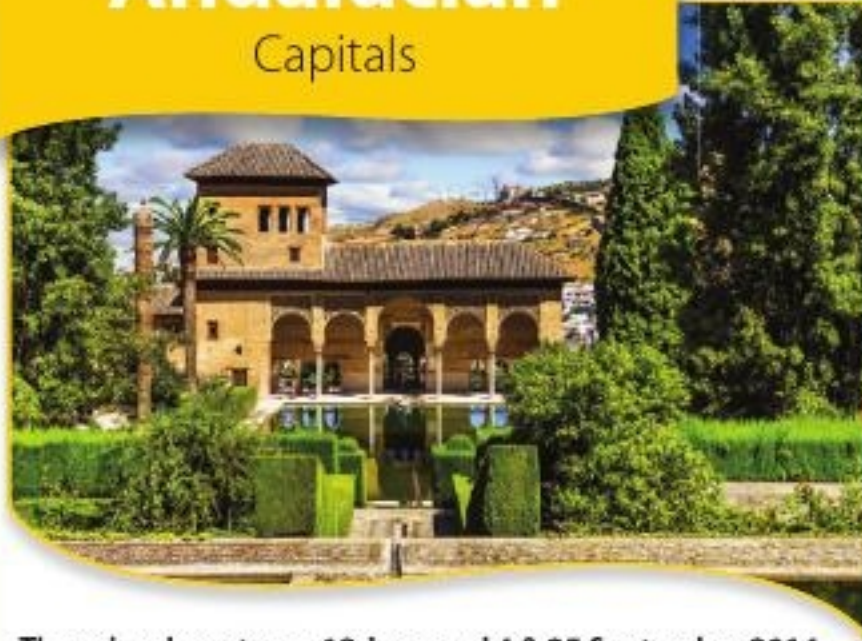
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Dubrovnik^{††††}
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Grand Hotel Park, Dubrovnik with dinner & breakfast
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to the island of Korčula and a cruise around the Elaphite Islands

Includes
Escorted Excursions

8 days by AIR, from
£759pp

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Andalucian Capitals



Thursday departures, 12 June and 4 & 25 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

Just across the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco, Andalusia is simply one of the most beautiful and unspoilt corners of Europe. Its stunning cities are steeped in history with a culture influenced by the Moors and the Romans which is enriched by the greatly contrasting surrounding landscape.

Price includes:

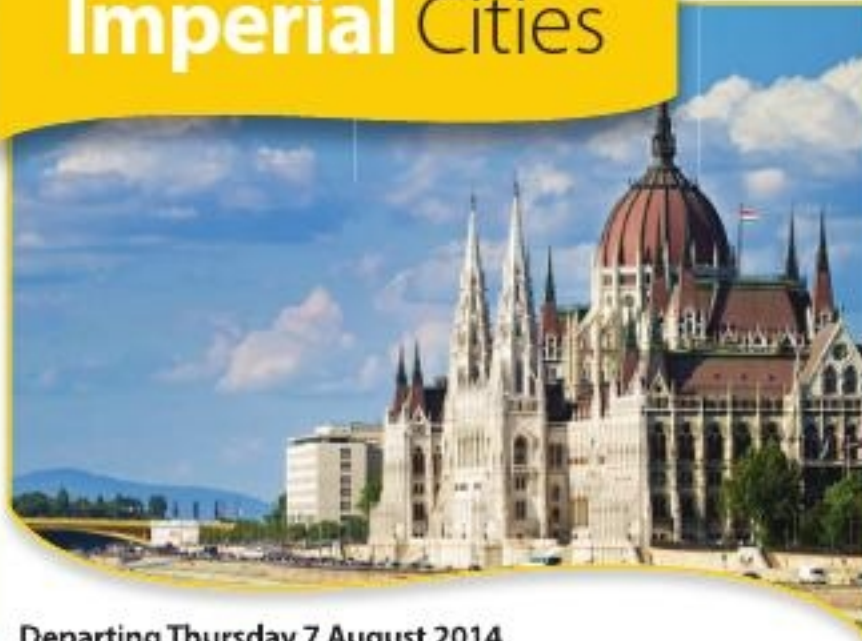
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malaga^{††††}
- Airport taxes & return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 6 nights stay at the 4 star Hotel Antequera Golf, Antequera with dinner & breakfast
- A guided tour of the Great Mosque of Cordoba (Mezquita)
- Admission to the Alhambra Palace & the Generalife in Granada
- Includes 3 excursions; to Cordoba, Granada & Seville

Includes
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Imperial Cities



Departing Thursday 7 August 2014
From Gatwick airport

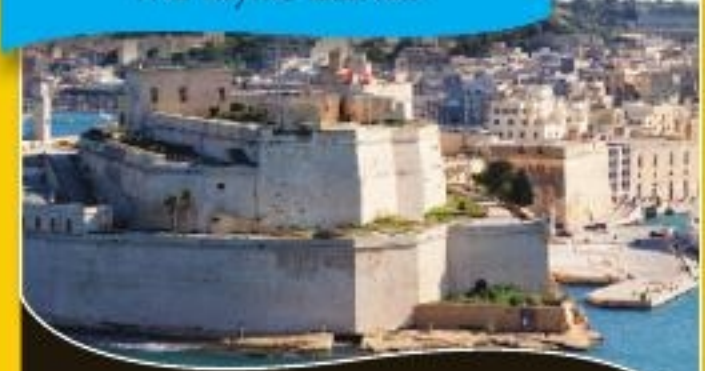
- Return flights from Gatwick airport^{†††††}; outbound to Prague and return from Budapest
- Return airport-hotel-airport transfer
- Coach transfer from Prague to Vienna, and transfer by train from Vienna to Budapest
- 3 nights' stay at the 4 star Hotel Century Old Town, Prague with breakfast
- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Courtyard by Marriott, Vienna Messe with breakfast
- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Lion's Garden Hotel, Budapest with breakfast
- 3 lunches and 4 dinners, including a Folklore Show with dinner in Prague and a Dinner Cruise on the River Danube in Budapest
- All excursions as detailed in the Itinerary
- Admission to Prague Castle (including St Vitus' Cathedral and St George's Basilica); the Hofburg Imperial Palace and Schönbrunn Palace (Vienna); Matthias Church, the Fisherman's Bastion and The Statue Park (Budapest)

Includes
Escorted Excursions

8 days by AIR, from
£999pp

^{†††††}We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised prices correct as of 30/12/13.

Malta & Gozo The idyllic islands



Tuesday departures, 6, 20 & 27 May and 7 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

8 days by AIR, from
£739pp

Set in the heart of the Mediterranean, the idyllic island of Malta has been described as one big open-air museum, with so much of its past being visible today including ancient temples and palaces, the world's oldest surviving free standing stone structures and red telephone boxes! A cultural gem bursting with a rich, diverse heritage, stunning scenery, great cuisine and an endearing charm.

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malta[†]
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Park Hotel, Sliema with dinner & breakfast
- An included excursion to Gozo
- A visit to Valletta including admission to The Malta Experience
- Includes a full day excursion; to The Three Cities; Cospicua, Senglea & Vittoriosa

Includes Escorted Excursions

[†]We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised prices correct as of 30/12/13 and based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 6/5/14.

Madeira Winter Sun



8 days by AIR, from
£669pp

Departing Monday 31 March 2014
From Gatwick airport

Fancy somewhere a bit unusual this winter? Think Madeira. It's a top cruise destination, it's got exotic flora and fauna, mountains, forest, great food and nightlife too, but none of the party crowds. Plus it's got year-round Goldilocks weather, not too hot and not too cold, but just right!

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Funchal, Madeira^{††}
- Airport taxes and return transfer to the hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Hotel Raga, Funchal with full board including drinks at dinner.
- Tour of Funchal
- Tour of Western Madeira
- Visit to Quintas do Bom Sucesso botanical gardens

Includes FULL Board & drinks with meals
Please call for more details...

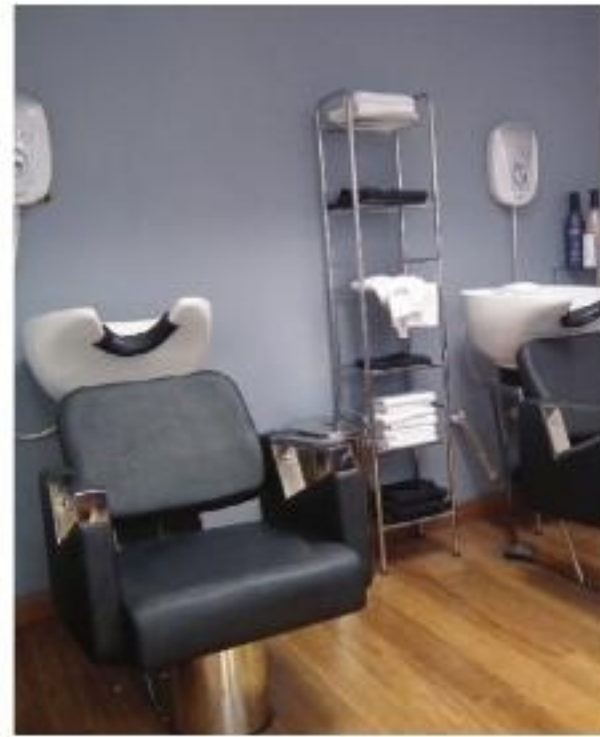
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There is rarely more than 10 minutes wait and we have a range of up-to-date magazines for your perusal.

We provide the full service, including cut throat shaves, and also stock an extensive range of men only products.

Younger clients are always welcome and are kept entertained with our playstation and colouring books.

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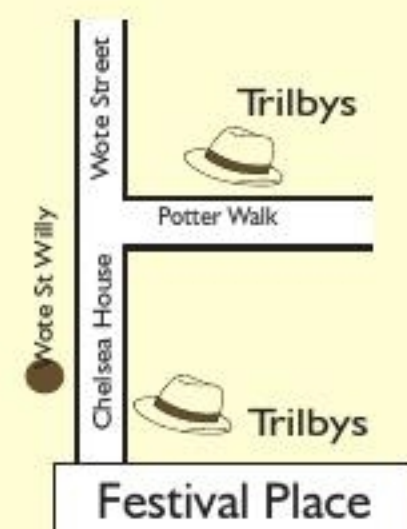
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| Girls under 10 | £10.00 |

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Entertainment

To advertise in this section please call
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 email the details to
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6 February, 7:45pm

The Anvil **BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Berlioz: Three movements from Romeo and Juliet
 Liszt: Piano Concerto no 1
 Scriabin: Poem of Ecstasy
 Piano: Stephen Hough
 Conductor: Kirill Karabits
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

7 February, 7:30pm

Central Studio Queen Mary's College **MILES JUPP**

Miles Jupp - actor, writer and comedian will be discussing/ ranting/ describing: himself, you, domestic imprisonment, fatherhood, having to have opinions, hot drinks, the bloody government, bad balance, housing, ill health, the ageing process, navigation, other people's pants and, inevitably, a number of other things.
Tickets: £15
www.centralstudio.co.uk

7 - 9 February

The Anvil **THE RUSSIAN STATE BALLET AND ORCHESTRA OF SIBERIA**

Giselle: Friday 7 February 2014
 7.30pm Swan Lake: Saturday 8 February 2014 2.30pm and 7.30pm
 Swan Lake: Sunday 9 February 2014 2.30pm
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

7 - 8 February

Silchester Village Hall **ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES - PANTOMIME**

www.silchesterplayers.hampshire.org.uk

8 February, 11am

Central Studio Queen Mary's College **JACK AT THE BEANSTALK**

CAFE

£6 full | £5 children
 Hand to Mouth Theatre present a nourishing bean-feast of stories in the Beanstalk Cafe, including the sweet and sour tale of The Old Woman in a Vinegar Bottle, and a tasty take on Jack and the Beanstalk. Watch and giggle as two full-grown adults play with their food as they search for the recipe for the perfect story. Using imaginatively designed shadows and puppets, and including original live music and song.
www.centralstudio.co.uk

8 February, 7:45pm

The Forge

THE STRAY BIRDS
 The Stray Birds are now a major force on the up-and-coming Folk/ Americana scene, making it into several Best Of 2013 charts; they are also due to appear as one of the main headline acts at Celtic Connections this January.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

8 February, 5:55pm

Farnham Maltings Association

THE MET: LIVE IN HD
DVOŘÁK: RUSALKA
 Starring Renée Fleming in the title role and Piotr Beczala as the handsome Prince she yearns to love, with Dolora Zajick as cackling swamp witch Ježibaba, Emily Magee as the Foreign Princess, and John Relyea as Rusalika's father, the Water Sprite. Conducting the opera will be Canadian Yannick Nézet-Séguin.
Metopera.org.uk

11 February, 8pm

The Anvil

STEWART LEE MUCH
A-STEW ABOUT NOTHING
 From parental alcoholism, justifiable shoplifting, and urban foxes, to

Helena Bonham Carter, Anglo Saxon epic poetry, The Big Bang and Judith Chalmers.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

12 - 15 February, 7:30pm

Central Studio Queen Mary's College **LES MISERABLES - SCHOOL EDITION**

Tickets: £9.00 full | £7.00 concession | £5.00 students & children | £22.00 family (2 adults, 2 children)
 The Extended Diploma Performing Arts and Music students present Victor Hugo's epic story, recounting the struggle against adversity in 19th century France. Featuring 'I Dreamed a Dream', 'On My Own' and 'One Day More', this famous stage musical version of Les Misérables is set to stir the heart and build on the success of previous productions.
www.centralstudio.co.uk

12 February, 11am - 4pm

Butlers Farm, Beenham, RG7 5NT **UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST VISIT WEDNESDAY'S**

Come & see our 10 wolves including Arctic, European/ North Western wolves. Photography platform area overlooking the wolves enclosure & waterfall pond. Guided tours & talks during the day & watch the wolves being fed at 2pm. Ask the experts about wolves & listen to them howling. No food facilities but tea, coffee & soft drinks available to purchase.
Outdoor picnic benches. No booking required. Adults £8, Children 3-12 & Senior Citizens £5, Children under 3 - Free. Sorry no dogs allowed on site.
0118 9713330 www.ukwolf.org

13 February, 7:30pm

The Anvil

THE LOCK IN
 featuring live music by The Demon

Barbers. This infectious show is full of energy and joy. Sword dances are performed with snooker-cues, pub bouncers dance the Morris and B-boys flirt with clog girls.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

14 February

Moose Centre, Churchill Way

JAM NIGHT

Low price bar. All welcome
www.basingstokebluesclub.co.uk

15 February, 7:45pm

The Anvil

RICHARD AND ADAM THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

Singing a wide variety of songs, from classic love songs to the powerful title track, Richard and Adam will be performing glorious harmonies and stunning vocals that will send chills down your spine.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

16 February, 11am - 5pm

The Serenity Community Centre, Near Ramsdell

MYSTIC FAYRE

The Serenity Community Centre is holding a Mystic Fayre on Sunday, 16th February, from 11am to 5pm. There will be Psychic Readers, Craft Stalls, Therapy Tasters, Food and Refreshments. Entry is £2 (Children and Members FREE). Parking is FREE. Children are welcome. Disabled access.

As part of our ongoing recycling scheme to raise funds, you can have free entry to the Fayre if you bring along an old car/caravan/motorcycle/scooter battery. Go to <http://serenity-centre.com/22/10/2013/leaking-news/> to find out more. The Serenity Centre is a not-for-profit company run by volunteers **01256 850521**
www.serenity-centre.com

16 February, 7:30pm

The Anvil

LA BOHÈME

Puccini's powerful and emotional masterpiece tells the tragic tale of hopeless love between the doomed Mimi and penniless writer Rodolfo, and includes the famous arias Your Tiny Hand Is Frozen, They call Me Mimi and Musetta's Waltz.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

18 February

The Serenity Centre, White Lion Court, Hollybush Farm, Stoney Heath, Tadley RG26 5SL

HEARTS AND HERO MINDS

unique programme for children that combines philosophy for children, mindfulness/meditation and emotional intelligence? It can help improve their concentration, reasoning skills, communication skills and emotional intelligence. Come and join us for some heart-expanding fun and mind-blowing exploration involving a variety of games and activities. Maximum of 10 children per session. £10 per child. Early Bird discount of £8 for anyone booking before the end of January.
dani@heartandmindeducation.co.uk or call 07887 798878

19 February, 11am - 4pm

Butlers Farm, Beenham, RG7 5NT **UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST VISIT WEDNESDAY'S**

Come & see our 10 wolves including Arctic, European/ North Western wolves. Photography platform area overlooking the wolves enclosure & waterfall pond. Guided tours & talks during the day & watch the wolves being fed at 2pm. Ask the experts about wolves & listen to them howling. No food facilities but tea, coffee & soft drinks available to purchase. Outdoor picnic benches. No booking required. Adults £8,

Children 3-12 & Senior Citizens £5, Children under 3 - Free. Sorry no dogs allowed on site. 11am - 4pm
0118 971 3330 www.ukwolf.org

20 February, 7:45pm

The Anvil

HEROES AND SUPERHEROES

Heroes both historical and fictitious as well as the superheroes of comics remain a mine of inspiration for Hollywood and some of the best big screen adventures ever. The music includes The Magnificent Seven, Saving Private Ryan and Apollo 13.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

21 February, 7:45pm

The Anvil

THE FRANK AND ELLA SHOW

Jacqui Dankworth and Todd Gordon
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

22 February, 8pm

Central Studio Queen Mary's College

THE MODS

Expect classics from the 60s and early 70s that encapsulate the true essence of Mod music and it's evolution through the late 60's summer of love into the heavier 70s. The Who, Small Faces, The Kinks, Toots and The Maytals, Desmond Dekker, Spencer Davis, Stevie Winwood, The Stones, The Beatles, Booker T and The MG's, Manfred Mann, Yardbirds, The Animals...this list could be endless.
www.centralstudio.co.uk

26 February, 11am - 4pm

Butlers Farm, Beenham, RG7 5NT **UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST VISIT WEDNESDAY'S**

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- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Lion's Garden Hotel, Budapest with breakfast
- 3 lunches and 4 dinners, including a Folklore Show with dinner in Prague and a Dinner Cruise on the River Danube in Budapest
- All excursions as detailed in the Itinerary
- Admission to Prague Castle (including St Vitus' Cathedral and St George's Basilica); the Hofburg Imperial Palace and Schönbrunn Palace (Vienna); Matthias Church, the Fisherman's Bastion and The Statue Park (Budapest)

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| | | 8 | | 3 | | 5 | | |
| | 3 | | 5 | | 1 | | 9 | |
| | | 1 | | 9 | | 2 | | |
| | 6 | | 7 | | 4 | | 8 | |
| | 8 | | | | | | 1 | |
| 7 | | 4 | | | | 3 | | 5 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 9 | | | | 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | | 1 | | | 3 | |
| | 2 | 1 | | | 8 | 7 | | |
| | | | 2 | | | | 7 | 3 |
| | | 3 | | | | 1 | | |
| 9 | 6 | | | | 5 | | | |
| | | 5 | 8 | | | 3 | 6 | |
| | 4 | | | 7 | | | | 2 |
| | | | 6 | | | | 5 | |

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

- 1 Platform (6)
- 7 Tract of level land (7)
- 8 Front cutting tooth (7)
- 9 Rows (5)
- 10 Physical features of a region (9)
- 12 Worn scrap of cloth (3)
- 13 Oceans (4)
- 15 Row of houses (7)
- 17 Dislike (4)
- 19 Fowl (3)
- 21 Making obese (9)
- 22 Circular frame (5)
- 23 Rule in tyrannical way (7)
- 24 Force exerted by reduced air pressure (7)
- 25 Joins (6)

Quick Clues Down

- 1 Self-righteously moral (8)
- 2 Medical practitioner (6)
- 3 Sudden increase (7)
- 4 Over-quick (5)
- 5 Go back (6)
- 6 Unnecessary worry (4)
- 7 Readiness (11)
- 11 Entrance (4)
- 13 Viewed (4)
- 14 Proposes (8)
- 16 Debase (7)
- 18 Ditch (6)
- 20 Most agreeable (6)
- 21 Aptitude (5)
- 22 Sagacious (4)

Cryptic Clues Across

- 1 Guides the saints around for ever (6)
- 7 Festival drink for Pygmalion's love (7)
- 8 Reveal how Uncle begins to take over? (7)
- 9 A flower for the shepherd? (5)
- 10 Photographs sailors, in leading parts (4,5)
- 12 Note the bishop's office (3)
- 13 Lies about a little bit of land (4)
- 15 They are added to sum up the last article (7)
- 17 The essence of trusting is truth (4)
- 19 It's laid quite naturally (3)
- 21 They are responsible for many a storm in a teacup (9)
- 22 Postponement of French song (5)
- 23 Got stung? Annoyed, of course (7)
- 24 Go back and buy them another meal (7)
- 25 A Spanish gentleman is so good-looking (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

- 1 Packing with different fun gifts? (8)
- 2 Beats the former cavities (6)
- 3 The clergyman had a different side charged (7)
- 4 Thunderous applause (5)
- 5 Beastly places where engine cuts out (6)
- 6 Russian leader got German money by the sound of it (4)
- 7 10 have to face up to it (6,5)
- 11 Food sounds suitable (but not for vegetarians) (4)
- 13 Shakespearian character says 'I'll have a go' (4)
- 14 Is so deep in stories (8)
- 16 Set indeed is appointed (7)
- 18 A lute's used to welcome (6)
- 20 Fast-eating sprite? (6)
- 21 Does key work (5)
- 22 Most unfair (4)

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|
| 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 |
| | | | | | 7 | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | | 11 | | | | | | | |
| | | 12 | | | | | | 13 | | | 14 |
| | | | 15 | | | | | 16 | | | |
| 17 | | 18 | | | | | | 19 | | 20 | |
| | | | | 21 | | | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 23 | | | | | |
| 24 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 25 | | | | |

Scribble space

Last week's solutions

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 |
| 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 6 |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| 8 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| 7 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 9 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 |
| 9 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| 7 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 1 |
| 5 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| 3 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 8 |
| 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 3 |
| 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| 9 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| 2 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 |
| 8 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| 6 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 |

Quick Crossword

Across: 4 Camera 8 Nippers 10 Tendons 11 Upset
12 Vials 13 Fragrance 16 Assistant 19 Plant 20 Resin
22 Ominous 23 Heedful 24 Basest

Down: 1 Engulf 2 Spas 3 Perturbations 5 Anniversaries
6 Egomaniacs 7 Assess 9 Stern 14 Aquatics 15 Aplomb
17 Slash 18 Tangle 21 Soft

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 4 Probed 8 Endured 10 Endwise 11 Stern 12 Elder
13 Ascendant 16 Bowlegged 19 Dingo 20 Dance 22 Averred
23 Stymied 24 Desist

Down: 1 Persia 2 Idle 3 Ironing boards 5 Redletter days
6 Blinding 7 Dreary 9 Delia 14 Chancels 15 Edward 17 Words
18 Dreads 21 Nail



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Competitions

WIN ZTT 30th anniversary albums!

TO mark the 30th anniversary of one of the most influential, innovative and successful record labels around, ZTT/Salvo Music have announced three new releases for 2014: 'Frankie Said (Deluxe Edition)', 'The Organisation of Pop (London Edition)' and 'The Art of the 12', Volume Three, set for release on February 10.

Expansively highlighting the breadth and depth of ZTT's collective vision, these stylishly packaged releases features cuts and hit singles from Frankie Goes To Hollywood, Grace Jones, Propaganda, Art of Noise, Seal, 808 State, Shane MacGowan, Kirsty MacColl, Shades of Rhythm, Adamski, Lisa Stansfield, Tom Jones, David Jordan and much

**Closing date:
Friday, February 21**

much more plus remixes, rare and classic 7" and 12" versions, promo videos, TV performances and classic ZTT experiments and overtures plus new words from Paul Morley.

Dreamt up by record producer Trevor Horn, his wife and manager Jill Sinclair and NME journalist Paul Morley, ZTT was founded in 1983 with their ethos to: deliver a "surreal variety show...a European cabaret...a dream department producing perfect pop."

With a style and a sound that no other record label has managed

to equal, ZTT has produced 45 UK Top 40 hits from the likes of Art of Noise, Propaganda, Frankie Goes To Hollywood, 808 State, Seal and more. Indeed, ZTT somehow manages to not only discover brand new talent but turn some of its artists into icons by the release of their second single.

'Frankie Said (Deluxe Edition)' brings together - for the first time ever - Frankie Goes To Hollywood's greatest singles, remixes, videos and TV appearances. Noise-shots from the 'Welcome To the Pleasuredome' and 'Liverpool' albums, and rare and unreleased footage from Top Of The Pops, ORS 84 and the Zang Tuum Tum archives. The 24-page booklet also features a new essay from Paul Morley.

'The Organisation of Pop (London Edition)' is a two-disc, 38-track anthology of the first 30 years of Zang Tuum Tum. Disc

One features 19 hit singles from 1983 to the present day while Disc Two, The Disorganisation of Pop, takes a tour of ZTT's archive of experiments, overtures, remixes and special projects. Paul Morley writes about ZTT's reorganisation of pop in the accompanying 24-page booklet.

'The Art of the 12', Volume Three features rare and classic 12" remixes by the godfathers of electronic and pop, threaded together by their off-shoot projects - and another 80s obsession - TV, film and ad themes, from and inspired by The Tube, The Word, Network 7, A Clockwork Orange, Moonlighting, Escape From New York and the golden era of MTV.

We have a copy of each of these double discs to give away to one lucky reader and all you have to do is answer this simple question:

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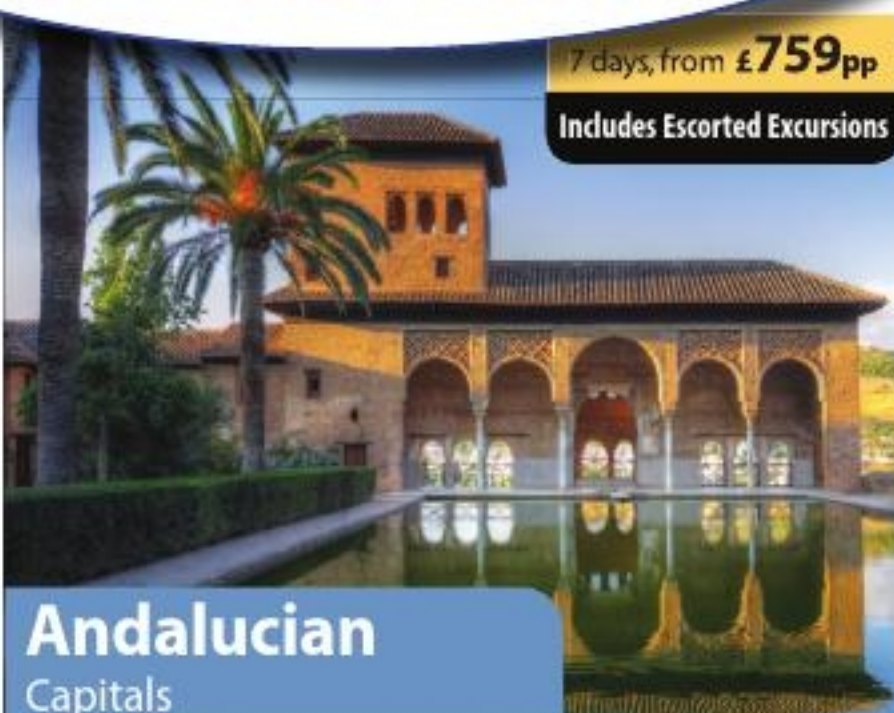


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- Included excursions to Toledo and Segovia
- Free time in Madrid

^{†††} We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013.

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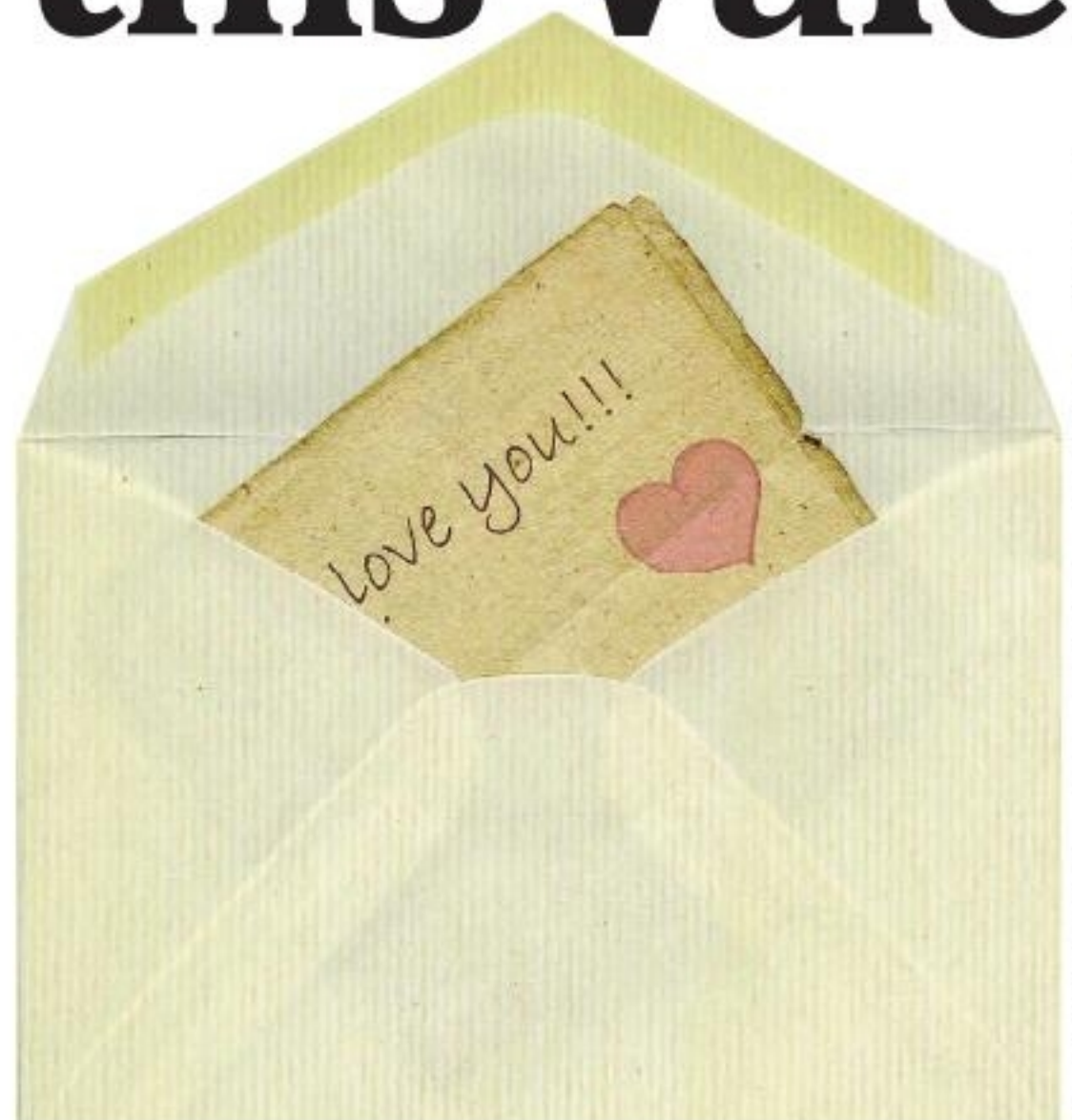


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Valentines

Put a smile on his face this Valentine's Day



WHILE Valentine's Day is traditionally reserved for romance, there are plenty of people who believe the celebration has become too commercial.

However, a little frivolity and fun can reduce the stress placed on buying gifts for a loved one, allowing you to find the perfect gift for your partner easily and show you are still a romantic at heart deep down.

Hunting for a Valentine's Day card for a man can be difficult, particularly if you are keen to find something that has meaning to you both but isn't soppy or covered in kisses and kittens.

One simple way round this issue is to create personal Valentine's Day cards ahead of February 14.

Instead of desperately trying to create something that epitomises your feelings for your special man, simply pick something that will make him laugh or smile and save the heartfelt romantic gesture for the message inside the card.

The simplest thing can add a personal touch and mark a normal card or

By James Booker

present out as something special.

It might just be something that you don't immediately realise until you take a second glance and it is this quality that makes them such amazing gifts.

A present for a loved one doesn't need to be awe-inspiring, it just has to be interesting and most importantly, heartfelt.

In fact some men are a great deal more romantic than the ladies, but that all depends on the man. Not all men would appreciate football-themed personalised Valentine's Day cards, just as not all women appreciate cuddly toy-themed cards.

The idea of personalised cards is that you use them to your advantage and choose a theme or design that is perfectly suited to the person they are intended for, whether that is male or female. When it comes to Valentine's

Day, all stereotypes should be left aside and the individual kept in mind at all times.

Anyone's intention on Valentine's Day is to make that special someone in their lives smile. It doesn't matter how you do this, whether it is through comedy, romance, or old-fashioned cheesy salutations. Just as long as you do something to create that smile, it doesn't matter what road you take to get there.

There are many themes that are very well suited to male recipients. There are the more obvious football and other sports themes, that can of course be personalised to your precise needs. Then there are other suitable themes such as music, or musical instruments.

There are even some personalised Valentine's Day cards that are a little more risqué, such as French Maid design cards, with the man's name written in the stockings. Such a card is guaranteed to be an ideal gift to make any man smile.

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Vauxhall ADAM is 'best connected small car in its segment'

Based on a smartphone

VAUXHALL Motors has launched a limited edition of 250 ADAMs creating even more levels of personalisation for the urban chic city car. The ADAM Black Edition and ADAM White Edition take their design cues from a smartphone, encompassing optimal connectivity and a sleek and stylish feel.

The Vauxhall ADAM is the best connected small car in its segment and the new ADAM Black Edition and ADAM White Edition come with Vauxhall's IntelliLink infotainment system and Siri Eyes Free voice control fitted as standard. They reflect typical smartphone looks in black or white, with accents in brushed aluminium effect.

"The ADAM Black Edition and ADAM

REVIEW: Vauxhall ADAM

By **Andy Allens**

White Edition models resemble sophisticated smartphones on wheels," says Duncan Aldred, Chairman and Managing Director, Vauxhall Motors.

"The ADAM combines innovative technologies with countless personalisation possibilities which are not available in its segment. With these new models, our urban chic city car once again shows that it is the best connected small car and a true individualisation champion all wrapped up in one."

ADAM drivers who have an iOS 6 - or later - compatible iPhone can comfortably and safely activate the Siri Eyes Free function via steering wheel controls and operate it with voice commands while keeping their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road.

Ultra-modern technology and design is mirrored in the looks of the special ADAM Black Edition and ADAM White Edition models.

The ADAM comes in 'I'll be Black' metallic paint or 'Saturday White Fever' brilliant paint exterior colours. The rest of the exterior carries a brushed, aluminium-look including the side mirror housings, and grille bar carrying

the Vauxhall logo. In addition, there are tinted rear windows and 18-inch wheels in a Twister design with matching brushed aluminium finish wheel clips. The black or white lacquered standard roof spoiler, as well as the characteristically shaped headlamps with LED daytime running lights and LED rear lights ensure the car stands out amongst its rivals. The sport chassis provides plenty of driving fun with its direct response and sports pedals. Inside the cabin, the seats, instruments

and applications continue the exterior colour scheme.

In the ADAM Black Edition, all occupants enjoy the comfort of Ocio Black Moroccan seat trim cushions. While the centre console and instrument panel are piano black, the door trims, glove box, leather gear knob and handbrake handle are in contrasting bright white.

The ADAM Black Edition and ADAM White Edition is priced at £14,995 (1.4 87PS), available across the UK.



• The new Vauxhall ADAM

Facts at a glance

Engine - 1.4i 16v VVT (87PS)
Max Speed (mph) - 109
Acceleration 0-62mph (sec) - 12.5
Urban Driving - 38.2 (7.4)
Extra Urban Driving - 62.8 (4.4)
Combined Figure - 51.4 (5.5)
CO2 Emissions g/km - 130



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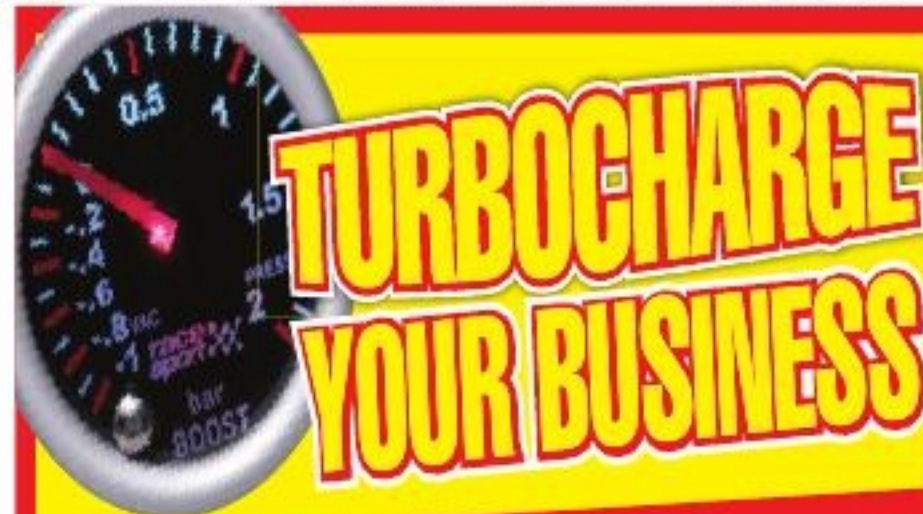
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Hartley lose out to Epsom and Ewell

ONLY Hartley Wintney escaped the weather out of Basingstoke's football teams to play on Tuesday night, although they succumbed to a 4-2 loss away to Epsom and Ewell.

Wintney were leading 2-1 at the break, but Epsom powered ahead in the second half to take the win.

They are now 14th in the Combined Counties Premier, with a total of 30 points from 21 matches.

Elsewhere, Whitchurch United's and Tadley Calleva's matches were called off due to waterlogged pitches.

The Jam Boys had been scheduled to travel to Sholing on Saturday in the Wessex Premier League, and then were meant to host Kingsclere in the Andover Open Cup on Tuesday evening.

Calleva should have made the trip to Cowes Sports on Saturday for their Wessex First Division clash.

Whitchurch stay sixth in the standings with 46 points, while Calleva are eighth in their table with 22 points.

All three teams will be hoping for better luck with the weather on Saturday, as Wintney travel to Chessington and Hook United, Whitchurch host Moneyfields and Calleva are away to United Services Portsmouth.

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Herd beat Steeldogs after tight MK defeat



A FRUSTRATING defeat was followed up by a close win for Basingstoke Bison, in their English Ice Hockey Premier League matches played on Saturday and Sunday.

Bison were beaten 3-2 at home against Milton Keynes Lightning on Saturday night, in what proved to be a very tight game. The hosts had the majority of the possession in the first period, but it was Lightning who scored the only goal through Lewis Christie at 10:45.

Adam Carr doubled the visitors' lead at 26:00 before Tomas Karpov was able to get Bison off the mark 10 minutes later,

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

although it took three shots for him to get the puck past net-minder Stephen Wall.

Lightning restored their two-goal cushion shortly into the third period, as Grant McPherson took advantage of a powerplay when Joe Greener was called for charging.

Aaron Connolly's goal at 55:10 got Bison back within one, so the hosts brought forward net-minder Dean Skinnis as they tried to get a late equaliser to

take the game into extra time.

But it was to no avail, and Lightning held on for a nervy win. However Sunday's match away to Sheffield Steeldogs was a more successful result, as Karpov's late winner gave Bison a 4-3 victory.

The Steeldogs got off to the better start, as Greg Wood grabbed the first period's only goal at 10:44. The scores were level 37 seconds into the second period through Ciaran Long, but the hosts were back in front less than a minute later with an Andrew Hirst goal at 21:20.

And Greg Chambers got a powerplay goal to put the Steeldogs

3-1 up just before the half-hour mark with the last goal of the period.

But Bison hadn't given up, and their comeback started as Nicky Chinn and then Miroslav Vantroba scored to level the game.

Karpov then struck with a powerplay at 58:10 to give Bison a dramatic win, and a valuable two points.

Bison are now level on 56 points with Manchester Phoenix at the top of the league, and face Swindon Wildcats and Bracknell Bees at the weekend.

• (Picture by Grant King (5holephotography.co.uk))

Basingstoke brushed aside without scoring as Old Elthamians march on

BASINGSTOKE RFC suffered a heavy defeat in the National League 3 London and South East on Saturday, losing 46-0 at home to new league leaders Old Elthamians.

The visitors have only lost

one game all season so it was going to be a big ask for 'Stoke, although it did take them 15 minutes to open their account.

But two quick tries gave Old Elthamians the advantage, before flanker Harry Ledger added a third from a line-out

just before half-time.

'Stoke finally made their first venture into Old Elthamians' 22 at the 50-minute mark, although ultimately it did not result in any points.

Another try for the Elthamians followed, with replacement

Rob White going over from close range to further extend their advantage to 25-0.

And in the closing stages, the visitors were able to add three more, courtesy of White, Jonny Williams and Renford Bennett.

Saturday's result means that 'Stoke are 11th in the standings, six points above the relegation zone with 33 points from 18 games.

'Stoke are back in action on Saturday, as they make the trip to Westcombe Park.

Sport Bites

Young Mickey is top of the shots!

YOUNG Basingstoke snooker ace Mickey Joyce has won the fourth leg of the Cuestars South of England under-21 Silver Tour, meaning he now tops the rankings.

Ten-year-old Mickey, who is based at Chandler's Ford Snooker Club, beat Matt Gillion 2-0, after he had been trailing by 30 points in the first frame.

The win comes after two semi-final exits in the previous two events, and Mickey's first competitive half-century break in the Eastleigh and District Under-18 League last month.

Silver for Kierra

BASINGSTOKE and Mid Hants athlete Kierra Barker has begun her 2014 season in style, with a silver medal at the Southern Regional Indoor Athletics Championships.

Her medal came in the under-17s long jump, as the 16-year-old set a new indoor personal best and club record with a leap of 5.58m.

As well as the long jump, Kierra also had a good showing in the shot, as she threw more than a metre further than her previous personal best to come sixth.

Esther unbeaten

BASINGSTOKE tennis player Esther Adeshina has maintained her 100 per cent winning record in the 12 and Under Girls Winter National Tour Grade 2 series, with another victory at Sunderland Tennis Centre.

The youngster beat Middlesex's Essence Martins 6-3 6-1 in the final of the event, only losing one set during the entire tournament.

Esther then moved up an age bracket to the under-14s tournament at Bolton Arena, but was knocked out in the quarter-finals.

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Inside: Herd beat Steeldogs after tight MK defeat | Hartley lose out to Epsom and Ewell | Esther unbeaten

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Bristow feels side did enough for three points

BASINGSTOKE Town boss Jason Bristow felt his side should have come away from their Monday night draw with Boreham Wood with maximum points.

The Dragons fell behind to their hosts after just 18 seconds - a superb strike from Graeme Montgomery - while Matt Partridge levelled later in the half.

Town controlled large amounts of the game, and Bristow was disappointed not to have been travelling back to the Camrose with all three points.

"To be honest, we were a bit frustrated and disappointed that we didn't come back with all three points," said Bristow.

"I think in the second half, we had two or three very, very good opportunities.

"And in the first half we were

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

ise on the possession we had." "We can't take it away from [Montgomery] - it was a fantastic finish from a really tight angle a fair distance out.

"When that happens, you're almost starting the game 1-0 down. But credit to the players, they brushed it off, stuck to the task and in the end we were unlucky not to come away with three points."

The Dragons boss added that there were several positives to take from the game, not least coming from a goal down away from home and getting a point.

"At half-time, we said it was probably a game we would go

take the positives away from the game - it was a point away from home. We came back from an early goal and got a point, so there are positives."

With the record-breaking bad weather set to continue this week, it remains to be seen whether Basingstoke's trip to Hayes and Yeading will go ahead.

At time of writing, the Surrey-based side are currently 14th in the Skrill South - three places below Bristow's men.

They beat Town 1-0 at the Camrose earlier in the season, and Bristow is wary of the attacking threat Saturday's hosts possess.

"They've had a lot of changes in the squad since then," he said.

"They're going to be a good side, with a lot of pace about them, and they're going to be



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